

ED-617
(P)

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 809
Washington DC 20004

August 28, 2007

**Re: STB Docket No. AB - 512X, Sierra Pacific Industries -
Abandonment Exemption - in Amador County, CA**

Dear Mr. Klima:

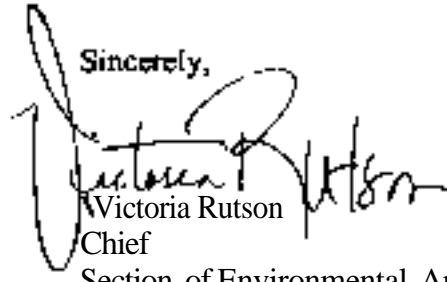
On November 12, 2004, Sierra Pacific Industries filed a petition for exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking approval authority to abandon a 12-mile railroad line in Amador County, California. The Board's approval of the abandonment is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (NHPA) and is thus covered under its provisions.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NHPA. SEA has reviewed the proposed project and a National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Report (Evaluation Report) prepared in August 2007 by the applicant railroad, Sierra Pacific Industries. We agree with the findings of the Evaluation Report that there are a number of sites and elements, including the rail line itself, that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Evaluation Report has been sent to the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Amador County Historical Society for their review.

Pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for implementing the Section 106 process of the NHPA, we are notifying you that the proposed abandonment may adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with the SHPO; the railroad; and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) the Petition for Exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted to SEA by the railroad; 3) the January 11, 2005 Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA; and 4) the Evaluation Report.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me or Christa Dean at (202) 245-0299.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc: Richard A. Allen, Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger, LLP
Dave Butow, Amador County Historical Society